

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 /061 W
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O R 031750Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7287
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO CINC LANT NORFOLK
CINC EUR VAHINGEN
USLO SACLANT
USNMR SHAPE
USDEL MC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05955

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, GW
SUBJECT: NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM

REFERENCE: STATE 84653 DTG 011845Z APR 78

1. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON
THE LTDP IN BONN PRIOR TO THE EWG MEETING IS INADVISABLE
FOR REASONS OF BOTH SUBSTANCE AND SCHEDULING.

2. AS FOR SUBSTANCE, GENERAL ALTENBURG TOLD US ON MARCH
31 THAT SECRETARY APEL WAS NOT INTERESTED IN BEING
PRESSED ANY FURTHER BY THE US ON THIS SUBJECT. VON
SANDRART'S COMMENTS AT NATO SEEM TO SUPPORT THIS
POSITION. IN VIEW OF THIS, AND THE FACT THAT WE SHALL
PRESUMABLY BE PRESSING THE GERMANS HARD ON AWACS DURING
SECRETARY BROWN'S VISIT TO BONN ON APRIL 13, THE EMBASSY
WOULD RECOMMEND THAT ANY FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS TO THE
GERMANS BEFORE THE NEXT EWG MEETING BE LOW-KEY AND
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CARRIED OUT IN BRUSSELS.

3. ALSO, APRIL 12 IS PROBABLY THE DAY THE AWACS
PACKAGE WILL GO TO THE BUNDESTAG. WE UNDERSTAND THAT
APEL WILL PERSONALLY TESTIFY THAT DAY, ALONG WITH
OTHER KEY DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS, IN SUPPORT OF
FRG PARTICIPATION IN THE NATO AEW SYSTEM. WE WOULD

NOT WANT ADDITIONAL US REPRESENTATIONS ON THE LTDP
IN BONN TO DIVERT EFFORT FROM THIS ALL-IMPORTANT
TESTIMONY.

4. AS FOR SCHEDULING, A VISIT TO BONN BY AMBASSADOR
KOMER AND DEFENSE ADVISOR LEGERE ON APRIL 12 WOULD BE
EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR THE GERMANS TO ABSORB. THIS IS
THE DAY BEFORE SECRETARY BROWN'S ARRIVAL, AND DEFENSE
MINISTRY ATTENTION WILL BE FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY
ON HIS VISIT AND ON THE AWACS TESTIMONY.
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